## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

## EASTERN

F.O.

1947

PALESTINE

FINE NO.7610

CLOSED

1978

61947

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

E 7610

19 AUG 1947

PALTO

Registry
Number EXO 70031

FROM

No.

Dated Con of The of
Received h M' Belley
in Registry

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Apt trafferd Lath

from 41 bæley kept 8th

61947

(Action completed)

Next Paper

Letallerhment of Jewish Stand Rekalitation

1 and Rollin Schonfills properties of

Luying on what is the august of the

Reducence by of the prince Rehabilitation

Letter what Fruit & Proceed to life

Little for principle received and

(Minutes.)

I agen with Mr. Trafford Smiths
third paragraph, but I don't think
a lymph is land is a very happy alternation

Southern Type, for any obs.

7.73 why 19/8

There are the following objections:

- (i) An island in the Aegean would be ideal for the purpose of illicit Jewish immigration, not only by geographical situation, but also by the fact that in this respect the Greek administration and police have shown themselves corrupt or incompetent, and Greek caique owners and process clever and unscrupulous.
- (ii) Greece is struggling with civil war, political and financial instability and with grave difficulties as to transport and food supplies Must anything more be added to her burden? It is to our advantage that one of the weakest countries in the world, where we are involved, should be saddled with the inevitable administrative and other problems?
- (iii) The Greeks are extremely suspicious of all foreigners, especially if they come from central European countries now within the Soviet sphere of influence. They have no particular sympathy for the Jews and even

the/

Reference:-FO 371 /6194

32538

(iv) Uninhabited Greek islands are barren and waterless; only a very few small islands are privately-owned. No Greek Government would be likely to allow the removal of Greeks from an island to make room for Jews.

In conclusion, I do not think there is the slightest likelihood of the Greek State consenting to negotiate, or allowing private individuals to negotiate, the cession of a Greek island for this purpose. In addition to this, there will seem to be serious objections from the British point of view, for the reasons outlined in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above.

D. Balfun

21st August, 1947.

adelson 24

made in Mr. Balfornis faid. (ii) is relevant. It sums clear from Mr. Trafford Smithing famille forwardle that this island the intention is that this island, hermally remish and, hermally self-administering. For four adding to the budden of the yeals I fourt. It would shobbly be the new well-run fortion I of Juele seritory. If

Can is sue subjett to sonten a depti concurrence subjett to sonten a depti

CT.E.CABLE)

Reference:-FO 371 /61947

)

I have added the word in Minutes. 2 (b) of the draft. I must insist that such a Fewith Island, even if entirely self-administered and ideally run, would be a but to free. It would entail additional responsibilities for security police, custimes, port authorities, enemy cutol etz. It is hardy believable that there Tews would not have to draw some of their supplies from the main land, and try to vitit the parts of free. In addition to all this, the very cosson of the island to preiques is tobally to become a holy disputed political issue, Ding to the present wortslil. 5. Ordinary freel national-sts will make it a pretent for Party granels, and the Comments are bound to take it up in one way or author: withen as a stick to had the nationalists and anglo-American with, or as a new alement to be turned by propaganda not into an active menace to the fresh State. I thouse, therefore, that the from the point of view of British intrusts in a country which we are trying to save from being diven aport its will over to the other sor of the iron contri by economic Istees I will won, we should reprecate the idea; and that something to this affect could well be whated u the draft- uply. & Ballin lague & have penielled in a sub-para (d) which might be added to aft if E. Deft see no objection

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

Iralt amended accordingly B Sept. 3

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



Downing Street. E 7319 1.

15th August. 1947. 1 19 AUG 1947 |

My Dear Harold,

We discussed the other day Rabbi Dr. Schenfald's bright idea about islands in the Asgean, and you asked me to let you have a note about it on the basis of which you can consult the Foreign Office Departments concerned.

I believe you already know of Dr. Schonfeld's proposition, now turned down by the West Indian Government concerned, that a small uninhabited island in the Bahamas (I believe it was) should be acquired by his organisation (the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council) as a place of rehabilitation for Jewish Displaced Persons pending their permanent resettlement elsewhere, principally in the United States.

Largely at my instance this proposition received support in the Colonial Office on the ground that any overt, legitimate Jewish initiative to find non-Zionist solutions for the disposal of their D.P.'s should be encouraged. Unfortunately for local reasons, the West Indian Government concerned were not encouraging, and finally the owners of the island refused to sell.

This turned Rabbi Schenfeld's thoughts to other possible islands. Having dismissed the Western Pacific as too distant and the Scottish Isles as too cold, he came to the conclusion that the one possibility of achieving his object lies in the purchase from the Greek

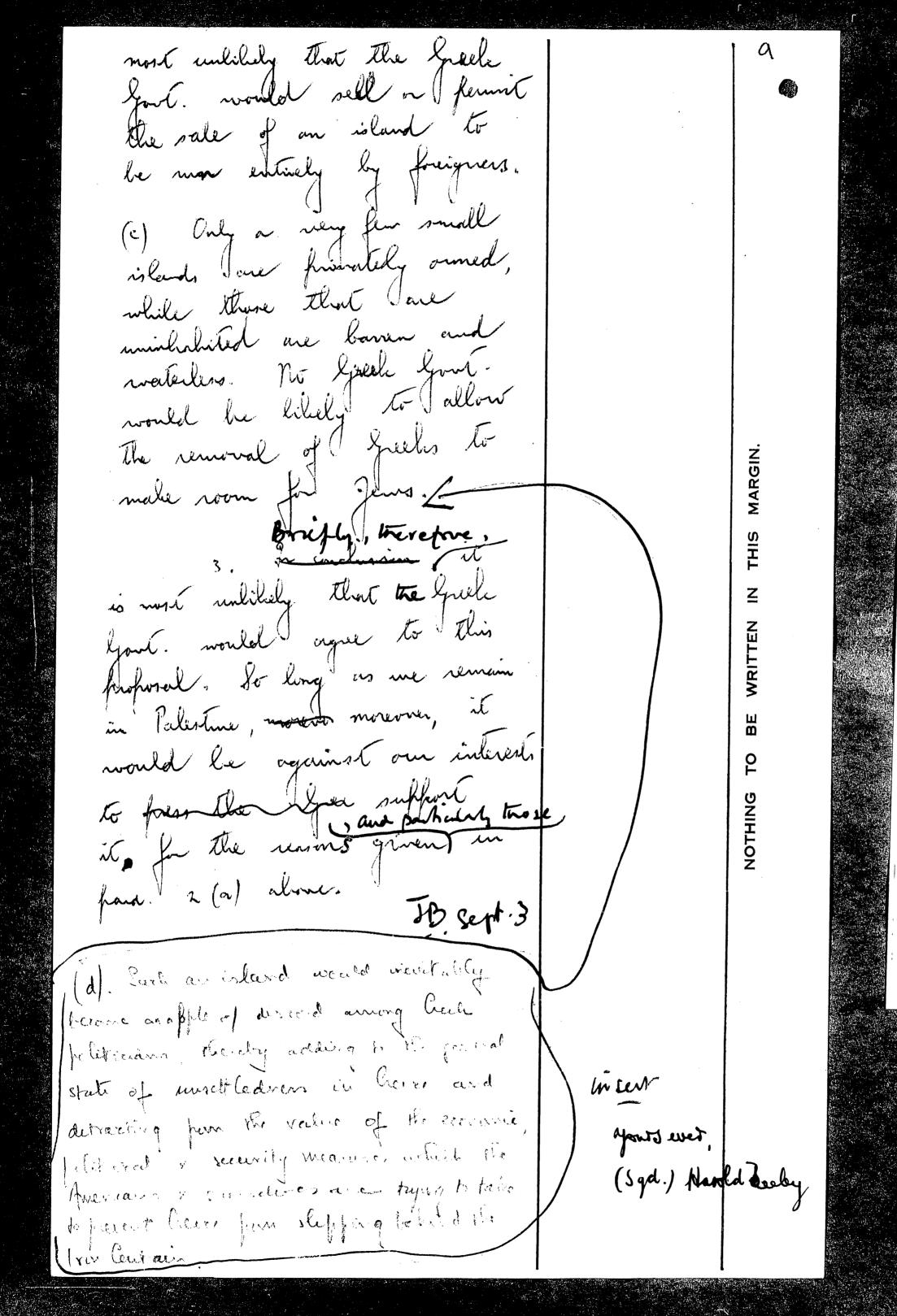
HAROLD BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.

or other Government concerned, or from the existing private owners as the case may be of an island in the Aegean or the Dodecanese. He would not ask for official support in the negotiations, but would naturally like to know beforehand whether the Foreign Office see objections which he ought to consider before going forward with his scheme. The idea is, as I understand it, simply to establish on some small island a Jewish Rehabilitation Centre, to which Jewish D.P.'s could be taken. would then be in a place, however small, which was entirely Jewish, and not in some small reserve in an alien land. Sovereignty would, of course, not come into the question: the desideratum is simply to establish a place where there are no non-Jews.

For my part, though I don't entirely like the relative nearness to Palestine of the island in question, in view of the possibility of Zionist contacts and infiltration, I see no strong objection to the proposal. I should be glad to know what you think of consultation with the Foreign Office Departments concerned. Rabbi Schenfeld's desire is simply to have some idea how his project is viewed in official circles before he proceeds further with it.

RECEIVED IN C.B Jam sur Walnuth SENT TO DEP

Registry
No. £7610/7610/31
5.6.c. My dear Trafford. Heare sefer to The Buly absence of 1,5 Jun august about Schonfelds suggestion That Guela island in The alegean bentie for Jenish D.P.s.



COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- FO 371 /61947

A Sept Proces

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

8th September, 1947.

(E 7610/7)10/31)

my dear Trafford,

Ploase refer to your letter of the 15th August about Dr. Schonfeld's suggestion that a Greek island in the Aegean or the Dodecanese should be purchased as a Jewish Robabilitation Centre for Jewish displaced persons.

- 2. This suggestion appears to us to be open to several objections:
- (a) The presence of Jewish displaced persons on an island in the Acgean would greatly facilitate the task of the organizers of Jewish illegal immigration.
- (b) The Brecks are suspicious of all foreigners and, in particular, of those coming from Central Europe. They have no great sympathy for displaced Jews and resent their presence in Cyprus. It seems most unlikely that the Greek Government would sell or permit the sale of an island to be run entirely by foreigners.
- (c) Only a very few small islands are privately owned, while those that are uninhabited are barren and waterless. No Greek Government would be likely to allow the removel of Greeks to make room for Jews.

(a)/

Trafford mith, Lsq., Colonial Office.

End O

(d) Juch an island would inevitably become an apple of discord among Greek politicians, thereby adding to the general state of unsettledness in Greece and detracting from the value of the economic, political and security measures which the Americans and ourselves are trying to take to prevent Greece from slipping behind the Iron Curtain.

3. Ericfly, therefore, it is most unlikely that the Greek Government would agree to this proposal. So long as we remain in Palestine, moreover, it would be against our interests to support it for the reasons given, and particularly those in paragraph 2 (a) above.

yours evel, (Igd.) Harold Reeley

(H. Beeley)